

Mr. Frank R. R. R.

GEORGE CREEK DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
Minutes of Organizational Meeting
Thursday-April 7, 1960

SUMMARY

The water users of the George Creek Distribution System recommended Mr. Rollo J. Kimber of Yost, Utah for Water Commissioner, and they adopted a budget of \$1140.00 for 1960. The group met at the request of the State Engineer to prepare water distribution during 1960.

INTRODUCTION

The water users of the George Creek Distribution System and representatives of the State Engineer met at 1 p.m. in the recreation hall at Yost, Utah on Thursday, April 7, 1960 to formally organize into one of the state water distribution systems. A list of those attending the meeting is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Donald C. Norseth, Distribution Engineer, called the meeting to order and explained that there was a definite need for the water users of George Creek to establish a distribution system and that the cost would have to be born by the users. He stated that the State Engineer's Office had handled most of their problems in the past, but with the increasing demand for the services of the State Engineer on the rivers and streams throughout the state it was becoming impossible to assume the burden of distribution along with state-wide supervision of water.

He pointed out that if the users decide to come under the supervision of the State Engineer, they would have to be a regular state distribution system, with a bonded commissioner responsible to the State Engineer and not to the water users. The commissioner would have to distribute the water according to priority, to keep a record flows, and file a commissioner's report of the water distribution for the year. Mr. Norseth stated that if the users agreed on a local man for water commissioner, their distribution costs would be much less than if they hired an outside engineer and paid per diem and travel expenses. The users agreed that a local man would be best.

Mr. Norseth then asked Clarence E. Erickson Jr. Distribution Engineer to explain the commissioner's monthly and annual report forms, and the water distribution schedules and the priority schedule in relation to the flow of George Creek. Mr. Erickson gave out several copies of the breakdown of the George Creek Priority Schedule, and explained a flow chart prepared to show what portion of the stream belonged to each water user at each stage of George Creek as measured at the Lone Rock Divider.

WATER COMMISSIONER

The users were then asked if they wanted to become a distribution system and to have a water commissioner. Mr. Cleo Teeter made a motion that Mr.

Rollo J. Kimber be recommended as George Creek Water Commissioner, since he was already familiar with the stream and would be distributing water for the George Creek Irrigation Company this year. Mr. Wallace Spencer seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Norseth said that he was sure that the water users had made a wise choice and that he would be happy to work with Mr. Kimber. He said that he would forward their recommendation to the State Engineer and the commissioner's appointment would come from that office, and that the commissioner would be bonded.

1960 BUDGET

After some discussion of the salary the commissioner would accept, Mr. Kimber proposed that he would take the job for \$200.00 per month, \$100.00 of which would be travel expenses. He stated that he would be commissioner from April to November, or a seven-month period, and on call for stockwatering problems during the rest of the year. The water users agreed to hire the commissioner on this basis.

Mr. Frank Reese, business manager of the State Engineer's Office, then explained the additional items of the budget needed finance the distribution system. He explained that the system must match 3% of the salary for Social Security, or \$21.00; and that an additional \$10.00 would be needed for Bonds and Insurance. Nine dollars were set aside to cover any miscellaneous expenses and to round off the budget to \$1440.00.

The following is a breakdown on the 1960 budget:

Commissioner's salary	\$700.00 (12 mo. basis)
Social Security Matching	21.00
Bonds & Insurance	10.00
Travel	700.00 (12 mo. basis)
Miscellaneous expenses	<u>9.00</u>
Total	\$1440.00

Mr. Reese explained several of the ways which assessments are made on other systems, and he pointed out that since there were no flow records on which to base an acre-foot delivery assessment, it might be best to assess on an irrigated acreage basis as set forth in the George Creek Priority Schedule with a minimum charge for stockwatering interests not covered by irrigation rights.

Mr. Norseth said that for 1960 the assessment would be made on whatever basis the water users might agree. The users agreed to take the acreage listed in the George Creek Priority Schedule as the basis of assessment. Mr. Norseth asked about the high water interests of Mr. Byron L. Chadwick and Mr. Roy A. Teeter, and if their rights should be assessed for this year. Mr. Teeter said that he was willing to be assessed for his acreage under his high water right. Mr. Norseth explained that this would probably mean a double assessment, since

his acreage was part of the George Creek Irrigation Company acreage.

Basis of assessment → It was moved by Mr. Almy Fehlman, and seconded by Mr. Spencer, that the water users adopt a total budget of \$11440.00 for 1960 and that the assessment be made on a percentage of the total irrigated acreage as listed in the George Creek Priority Schedule, with a minimum charge of \$1.00 for stockwatering rights not already covered by irrigation assessments. Motion carried.

Mr. Reese explained that the assessments would be mailed to each water user or company, and the State Engineer's Office would handle the accounting and pay the commissioner and the cost of distribution of the system. He said that one assessment would be sent to their irrigation companies and each company would be responsible for the assessment breakdown within the company.

DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT POLICY

The delinquent assessment policy, which will go into effect this year and has been adopted by the other distribution systems throughout the state, was explained by Mr. Norseth. He stated that an assessment would become delinquent June 1, or 60 days after the mailing of the assessment notice. A state-wide charge of 10% with a minimum of \$1.00 would be attached to all delinquent assessments.

He explained that all penalty monies would become part of the reserves of the system in which they were collected and would help to reduce assessments for the following year. It was pointed out that the State Engineer did not want this penalty money, and that it belonged to the individual system, but such a policy was necessary because of the increasing volume work involved in handling delinquent assessments throughout the state.

CONTROL DEVICES AND HEADGATES

The water users were informed that suitable headgates and control devices would have to be installed on all diversions which divert water directly from the George Creek channel, and that no water would be delivered to these diversions until the proper installations had been made.

DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULES

Mr. Erickson said that he would make up a revised daily discharge sheet and monthly report forms for the commissioner, and that his office would also send distribution flow charts and schedules that would be made available to all the George Creek water users. Mr. Spencer stated that he had purchased the Yates stockwatering right, the Yates irrigation rights and the Holtman irrigation right; since this meant that there were now only two major irrigation interests, the George Creek Irrigation Co. and the Spencer interests, a revised commissioner's report form would have to be made. Commissioner Kimber pointed out the necessary revisions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Attending the meeting were:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>MAILING ADDRESS</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Wallace B. Spencer	Yost, Utah	Spencer interests
Hollo J. Kinber	"	George Creek Irr. Co.
Darwin Thompson	"	" " director
Yale Montgomery	"	" " president
Cleo Foster	"	" " director
Byron L. Chadwick	"	" " Irr. Co.
George Wright	"	" " secretary
Allen Wright	"	
Roy A. Tester	"	
Marlin H. Booth	Bridge, Idaho	
Almy Fehlman	Oakley, Idaho	
Frank Reese	Business manager	State Engineer
Donald C. Norseth	Distribution Engineer	" "
Clarence E. Erickson, Jr.	" "	State Engineer

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